



# Santa Cruz County Syringe Services Program Advisory Commission

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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, January 11, 2022  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: Remote Meeting  
PRESENT: Steve Plumb (1<sup>st</sup> District), Damon Bruder (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Eric Sturm (4<sup>th</sup> District), Patty King (At Large), Jim Hart (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
EXCUSED: None  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Rahshan Williams (Program Coordinator), Socorro Gutierrez (Health Services Manager), Jennifer Herrera (Assistant Health Services Agency (HSA) Director), Nicky Meza (Administrative Aide), Megan Holland (Administrative Services Manager)  
GUESTS: None

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions:  
Meeting convened at 6:00 PM.
2. Review and Approve December 7, 2021, Meeting Minutes:  
**Motion to approve minutes**  
Motion/Second: King/Plumb  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
3. Formal Approval of Bylaws at Board of Supervisor Meeting on 2/1/2022:  
3.1. Holland discussed that the approval of the bylaws will need to be postponed to the February 15, 2022, Board of Supervisor meeting, due to the surge response. Holland will send the finalized board memo to the Commissioners before that meeting for them to review. The Commissioners had questions regarding the process of submitting bylaws and the quorum rules specific to this commission and Holland provided clarification.
4. Program Updates:  
4.1. Williams provided program updates and reviewed the three themes of the Syringe Services Program: improving the distribution and collection of syringes, safe syringe disposal and enhancing referrals. Data was presented showing two-year trends and showed a decrease in participant use and distribution of syringes from 2020 to 2021. Williams discussed that this could be because of change in program hours and a change in program policy to limit the exchange of needles to three individuals total (the individual at the exchange and two other people) known as a secondary exchange. The syringe reporting app is almost ready for a “soft” launch and will be announced on the SSP site and the status will be reported to the Board of Supervisors on February 15,

2022. The Commission questioned if there were benefits in limiting the number of syringes given. Gutierrez is going to investigate this information and report back. The Commission also inquired about the program's plans to advertise the rollout of the syringe reporting app. Williams confirmed that the "soft launch" will be announced on our website but not widely publicized yet to work out any issues with the app first. The Commission questioned if the decrease in syringe pickup also translates into reduced amount of needle litter and usage. Williams informed that they are currently conducting a survey with participants on syringe usage and that is providing helpful information. Presentation slides will be made available.

5. Continuing Business Items:

5.1 Public Works Follow Up-Replacement for Resource Planner IV

No updates currently.

5.2 Public Engagement-Update from Commissioners, Plumb and Sturm

Sturm provided a Word document listing the ideas for increasing engagement. Plumb added ideas to involve the medical community and emergency services.

Word document will be made available.

5.3 Continue discussion regarding data from kiosks vs. syringe exchange

King posed the question on whether the data provided from the kiosks is helpful and how we can formulate policy and work towards harm reduction. Bruder questioned if there was a way to separate the data so that there are two data points, 1. Syringes that are collected and distributed at the exchange, which would be the most accurate data and 2. The weight of kiosks and state that this amount of weight *could* translate into "blank" numbers of needles and not mix the two data points together. SSP staff will discuss this requested change internally and report back. Commission will continue this conversation at the next meeting and hear from SSP staff if this is possible. King requested that an item be discussed at the next Commission meeting regarding the future of the SSP program and review Syringe Services Board directives. The Chair agreed to add this as an agenda item for the February meeting.

6. Public Comment: None

7. New Business/Action Items:

7.1. Vote for Next Meeting Location, Virtual or In-person (AB361)

Meza introduced a new legislation, N-1-22, that the Governor put out due to the COVID surge and emergence of the new variant, Omicron. Information was relayed that due to the legislation, virtual meetings could continue, and the next meeting location would not need to be voted on until March 31, 2022.

## 7.2. Suggested Agenda for Future Meetings

Holland will be creating a new agenda template for the Commission and will be ready to discuss at the next meeting. The Commission agreed to continue this to the next meeting.

## 8. Topics for Future Meetings & Action Items

8.1 Follow up on DPW replacement for Tim Goncharoff, Resource Planner IV.

8.2 Officially create Community Engagement sub-committee

8.3 Proposed SSP Data Report Format for Syringe Collection

8.4 Commission to vote on AB 361 document for next meeting location.

8.5 Review Syringe Services Program Board Directives

## 9. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

Motion/Second: King/Plumb

**Motion passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM

Submitted by Nicole Meza (*Administrative Aide*)